



Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Nov. 1, 2015 "Ehole" Frost Month

Vol. 45, Issue 21

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Walking in Lucy's shoes - A tale of love turns violent — Page 6

#MCNVOTE2015



A Mvskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS



MCN represented at AARP ceremony

Citizens recognized at Indian elders event

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — Over 50 Indian elder honorees from 30 Oklahoma tribes and Nations were recognized Oct. 6 during the seventh annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

“The common thread among these honorees is the wisdom and impact they have had on their tribes, family and community,” said AARP Oklahoma State President Joe Ann Vermillion. “Tonight, in this place, as Oklahoma tribes and Nations join together in a spirit of harmony and peace, we reflect and give thanks for the lives they have lived and the innumerable ways they have passed on their legacies to future generations.”

According to AARP Oklahoma State President Joe Ann Vermillion, AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors is the largest occasion of its kind, bringing all tribes from throughout Oklahoma to-

AARP - 2

Three citizens recognized during 2015 Hall of Fame



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Jerome Tiger, Chebon Dacon and Sarah Deer were inducted into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame Oct. 17 during the benefit gala at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Gala proceeds benefit Scholarship Foundation, Festival

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Guests posed for photos on the red carpet while live harp music added ambience Oct. 17, during the Mvskoke Hall of Fame gala at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa to celebrate the induction of three Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The black tie event hosted

by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department, raised funds for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation and the annual MCN Festival.

HESF awards scholarships to Muscogee (Creek) students seeking both graduate and under graduate degrees.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger served as master of ceremonies.

“Welcome to a very momentous and special occasion when we

honor those that have performed excellence and contributions to this great Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” Chief Tiger said.

Chief Tiger explained the HOF recognizes individuals who have made contributions either to MCN or the quality of life for Native Americans.

“The inductees’ achievements may be local, national or international in scope,” Chief

HoF - 4

CORRECTION

The General Election is Nov. 7

The date that ran in candidate profile section beginning with the 'Muscogee Nation News' Aug. 1 edition had the date incorrectly listed as Nov. 2 —I regret this error.
Sterling Cospier/Editor

MCN celebrates new Citizenship Office in Jenks

Satellite location opens at RiverWalk

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 15 for the new MCN Citizenship Office at the RiverWalk business development in Jenks.

The satellite office will provide services for the Muscogee (Creek) citizens who live in and near Tulsa County. The northern part of MCN has over 16,000 citizens in the area.

“About 65 percent of the citizens that we serve are in this area,” MCN Citizenship Director Nathan Wilson said. “The numbers tell you that this is where a lot of our citizens are at so we need to be here for them.”

This will provide a convenient location for those in the area to enroll as Muscogee (Creek) citizens or renew their cards. Citizens are encouraged to update their information with the office and obtain the new citizenship card that is approved through the State of Oklahoma for identification purposes.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger spoke about the day and what it means for the Nation.

“Our responsibility as a Nation is to reach out to our citizens, not the other way around,” Tiger said. “A lot of our people make that drive to Okmulgee for our services and we need to make it easier for them.”

MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett identified with the significance.

“As a mother of four, I remember having to take a whole day off of work to go to Okmulgee to get my kids’ citizenship cards,” Barnett said.

The offices officially opened Oct. 19. For more information about services, contact the Okmulgee office at: 918-732-7941 or the Jenks location at: 918-701-2611.

Cultural Day hosted for Muscogee (Creek) youth



Chelsie Rich/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted their annual Cultural Day for Muscogee (Creek) youth to experience Mvskoke culture Oct. 9 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Office of Child Care hosts educational event

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted their annual Cultural Day for Muscogee (Creek) youth to experience Mvskoke culture Oct. 9 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Every year, schools within the MCN jurisdiction that have Johnson O’Malley programs are invited to attend the event.

The day is designed to bring awareness to students who are

of Muscogee (Creek) or Native American descent that may not have the opportunity to engage in their culture on a regular basis.

“The children get a taste of everything about our culture that they maybe not get at home or at school. We want to have them be able to learn about our culture, the Mvskoke people,” Child Care Assistant Manager/Financial Officer Newman Frank said.

Just like many other Muscogee (Creek) functions, the attendees were led in a prayer

Cultural - 3



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Children’s author Michael Dahl presented to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start students and middle school students during a ‘Meet the Author’ event Oct. 9 at the Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

myON welcomes author to MCN

Dahl shares books, inspiration with students

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Literacy Program hosted a ‘Meet the Author’ event featuring children’s author Michael Dahl Oct. 9 at the MCN Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Dahl has written more than 200 books including the ‘Dragonblood’ series and ‘Duck Goes Potty.’ Mvskoke and Yuchi language translations are available for select titles via the myON app.

Dahl presented to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start students and middle school students from the Johnson O’Malley Program.

Dahl said he has been interested in books and writing since about fifth grade.

“One of the best things about being a writer is you get to write about whatever you want,” Dahl said.

Project Manager Randi Narcomey-Watson said Head Start teachers use Dahl’s books in the classroom.

“A lot of those are talking about emotions, feelings and

myON - 3

AARP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gether.

Out of the 50 honorees, seven were Muscogee (Creek), with some from the Kialegee, Alabama Quassarte and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns.

The honorees were: Dorothy Burden, Leona Fish, Matilda King, Brenda Leftwich, Susie Martinez, Diane Moppin and Vada Foster Tiger Nichwander.

Fish from Tulsa spoke about her award.

“I can’t explain the feeling; it was so wonderful,” Fish said. “I never had anything happen to me such as this.”

Fish, who has helped bring attention to issues affecting seniors and promoting tribal culture, felt that receiving this award with the others was an honor.

“I was in awe when they called my name, that I do not even remember the emcee

reading my bio,” laughs Fish. “Standing with everyone else, was a great pleasure because we all have done something that impacted our tribes.”

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mashell Sourjohn who is the AARP associate state director of community outreach was happy with how the event turned out.

“This took a lot of preparation from everyone to get this ready,” Sourjohn said. “It is very exhilarating from seeing the honorees who put the focus on everyone else finally get acknowledged for the great things that they have done.”

Sourjohn enjoys helping with this event.

“We really look forward to this evening because it fills your soul seeing the smiles and hearing the applause for these great people,” Sourjohn said.

Advocate discusses book, preventing violence against Native women



MNN File Photo

Deer set to release ‘The Beginning and End of Rape’

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — This fall, award-winning author, lawyer, MacArthur Fellow winner and recent inductee into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame, Sarah Deer, completed her latest book to continue her campaign against the rape and abuse of Native American women.

‘The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America’ is being published by the University of Minnesota Press and is due out in November.

In an Oct. 7 interview on ‘Mvskoke Radio,’ Deer said, the reason she began this fight started early in her academic career.

“I think the issue found me. I was first really inspired by the women I met when I was a student at the University of Kansas. I was working at the rape crisis center there,” Deer. “I had the chance to work with a number of women at Haskell (Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kan.). Women who had maybe been raped on campus, but also women who had maybe been raped in their homeland but never had a chance to get help for that.”

Deer explained how this inspired her to move forward.

“Those women were instrumental in opening my eyes to the stark reality that Native women and men and children are facing in our communities with such high rates of abuse,” she said. “So, those women inspired me to do that work and that providing direct services is something that is invaluable.”

Members of American Indian communities have unique ‘communal’ relationships with each other; something that Deer said had some bearing on the problem but an Indian school like Haskell is no different than other colleges.

“First, I want to say that it’s been over 20 years since I worked in Lawrence so it’s quite possible that things have changed and improved,” Deer said. “Haskell is really no different that any college campus in terms of the mentality of, sometimes, young men that think they are entitled to have sex. That would happen at the University of Kansas as well.”

She broadened this issue to an intergenerational perspective.

“I think the difference for Haskell is that, that historical trauma that sort of carries into the lives of young people today is something that you can’t put your finger on,” Deer said. “But that history of trauma amplifies the problem really. It creates a system where they know that their mother was assaulted and nothing happened and their grandmother was assaulted and nothing happened and so forth.”

This, she said, generates a hesitation to appeal to external agencies.

“So, the trust of the system, especially in Haskell where you would have to report to an outside police department, there’s a real hesitancy to embrace that as a possible solution because it simply hasn’t worked elsewhere,” Deer said.

U.S. Department of Justice statistics show that American Indians are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, and one in three Indian women reports having been raped during her lifetime.

Numbers like these, Deer said, are one reason why local efforts from people that a victim can trust are so important.

“If you do open up and you take that risk and you report somebody—maybe somebody important in your community, somebody with power, nothing good comes of it,” she said. “So, what we really need to do for survivors is change that system and make sure we go back to our traditional values, which is to protect women and children, which is the primary goal of a tribal Nation.”

Deer pointed to the work like that of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program as being a critical part of the solution.

“I think it’s really difficult. We have so many assaults committed by family members and particularly powerful people in the community or people who may be ceremonial leaders or speak

the language fluently—people who are held up with high esteem,” she said. “The victims feel that no one will believe them if they come forward and they may be receiving backlash from the community.”

Outlets like FVPP are working to remedy this she said.

“So what’s really important is the kind of work that Shawn Partridge and the women at the Muscogee Nation Violence Prevention Program are doing, is to make sure there’s confidential support for those women and girls so that if this does happen to them, they know they have a place to go to talk to,” Deer said. “There’s not going to be any pressure there to report because the advocate understands the risks that are taken there.”

For victims, taking this step is still not simple she explained.

“To make that decision to come forward is a life-altering decision,” she said. “It’s a high burden to put on somebody who’s already been traumatized.”

The title of her book, Deer agreed, was intimidating.

“It’s an intense topic. It’s an intense title, pretty bold and it might actually scare some off from reading it,” she said.

Its origin, she said, was from thinking about the first contact with colonizers.

“At the end of the book, I have a very positive outlook for what can happen in the future. So, the beginning of rape, in terms of Native women, I identify as coming from Europe,” Deer said. “That is really when the concept and the crime was really introduced to our people. So, that’s the beginning of rape.”

Deer believes this can be remedied.

“The end of rape is something I think we can accomplish in a generation. There are certain things that need to be in place at the tribal level, the federal level, the state level, advocacy—all of those things that they’re working together and they’re working in the right way,” she said. “I really believe that we could see and end to rape. That’s why the book is titled, ‘The Beginning and End of Rape,’ the story of how we can accomplish this.”

‘The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America’ will be available in November 2015 from www.Amazon.com or the University of Minnesota website at: www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/the-beginning-and-end-of-rape.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship
of the Persons and Estates of:)
D.J.A.F.) Case No. GD-2015-19
A. I. F.)
Minor Children.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Michael Lee Furr

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2015-19, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: D.J.A.F and A.L.F the minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 4th day of December, 2015, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 20th day of October, 2015.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear
(Deputy)

Approved:
Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship
of the Persons and Estates of:)
E.M.H.,) Case No. GD-2014-35
A.I.H., and)
F.M.T.)
A Minor Children.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Ramundo Ramirez
Jacob Soliz
Michael Trevino

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2014-35, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: E.M.H., A.I.H. and F.M.T., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to an Order of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 4th day of December, 2015, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 14 day of October, 2015.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Jessie Mester
(Deputy)

Approved:
Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott

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Citizen to manage Muskogee community smoke shop

Mutual benefits of deal touted

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muskogee Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop has officially opened with new management.

Muskogee (Creek) citizen Ronnie Boswell will manage and operate the smoke shop under a contract approved by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

The Council passed TR 15-151, authorizing MCIC to sign a contract for Boswell to operate and manage the smoke shop.

In the contract, Boswell agrees to pay MCIC \$1 per carton of merchandise purchased by the operation to be sold to customers.

The contribution to MCIC is not to be less than \$2,000 per month.

“Everybody should make money out of this deal, the way we set it up,” Boswell said.

The smoke shop is located near State Highway 69.

According to statistics compiled by Retail Attractions Economic Development Consulting available at: www.visitmuskogee.com, the daily traffic count for State Highway 69 is 16,500 vehicles per day in 2012. Highway 69 links Interstate 44 and I-40.

According to RAEDC, major businesses reported that 60 percent of the sales conducted were from non-Muskogee residents.

Boswell has managed smoke shops and convenience stores

for over 15 years.

“I think it’ll be a wonderful opportunity for the community and the Creek Nation and all the citizens,” Boswell said.

MCN Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak said that he hopes business is good for Boswell, as it will be good for the Nation and the community as well.

“The community, without any investment and without any risk at all is guaranteed to make \$24,000, and that is bare minimum,” McPeak said.

As an example, McPeak said that if the smoke shop sells 5,000 cartons of cigarettes per month, the Nation would make \$18,000 in tax revenue.

If the smoke shop simply breaks even, MCN will make \$80,000 in revenue and MCIC will make \$24,000.

“Everything that comes through the tax commission goes to the general fund,” McPeak said.

McPeak said that monies in the general fund can be used for programs and services as approved by MCN, unlike federal funds, which are earmarked for certain programs with specified rules.

Boswell said he plans to carry more inventory and options so that he can handle a larger volume and accommodate more customers.

Hours for the MCIC Smoke Shop are 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., seven days a week.

For more information call the smoke shop at: 918-687-6653 (SMOKE).

OKC community dedicates new center

New location to service citizens in state capital city

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muskogee (Creek) Association dedicated their new community center Oct. 16.

OCMA is the only one of the 26 Muskogee (Creek) chartered community centers located outside of the tribal boundaries and serves over 6,000 at-large Muskogee (Creek) citizens residing in the greater Oklahoma City metro area.

“I am one proud member today,” OCMA member Sandra Dacon-Medrano said. “This is a day that we all are going to rejoice.”

The dedication included recognition of MCN, State of Oklahoma and city elected of-

ficials, followed by a flag-raising ceremony by the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard.

“I was working for Chief (Claude) Cox and he asked me to bring the very first check to this organization” MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. “Seeing it from the infant stages to this is truly an enjoyment.”

Tiger said that their last building was in a bad neighborhood so he felt one of the priorities during his term was to help them locate a new one.

“To dedicate this building today is kind of like a circle of life coming complete now,” Tiger said.

He also said that OCMA is located north of the state capitol grounds and next door to the Chickasaw Nation Oklahoma City Area Office.

“Looking south from the OCMA community center, ‘The Guardian’ can be seen on top

of the capitol dome which is emblematic of how interwoven Muskogee people are to the State of Oklahoma’s history and future.” OCMA President Tresa Gouge said. “Former Senator and Chief of the Seminole Nation, Enoch Kelly Haney, who is also a Muskogee descendent, created this monumental tribute for all Oklahomans.”

After the dedication ceremony, the community center gave tours of the facility during the open house, which featured Muskogee (Creek) artists, informational booths on social services, free flu shots and the MCN Citizenship Office and MCN Gift Shop were also represented.

The building is located at 4111 N. Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

For more information call Gouge at: 405-609-9261.

Beggs High School introduces Mvskoke language course



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Muskogee (Creek) citizen, Lanissa Jack-Melton teaches the Beggs High School Mvskoke language class.

Language offered for high school credit

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hesci Estonko? which means, “Hello, how are you?” in the Mvskoke language.

In an attempt to preserve the language, Beggs High School has added a new class to their core curriculum.

Starting with the 2015 fall semester, the Mvskoke language is now offered as a world language credit.

Beggs High School Principal Chris Howk spoke about the addition.

“As a way to offer another opportunity in something different that they may not have ever seen of or heard of,” Howk said. “For me as a principal, opportunity is what I’m all about.”

There is one section of the class offered and it was closed early due to popularity, with 23 students enrolled.

“This is new for everybody so as we go, we’ll learn. We’ll come up with ideas. Find out what works, what doesn’t work,” Howk said. “I’m learning right along with them, especially having a program that I’ve never

to come out fluent but it gives them knowledge and ability to greet or to be able to respectfully affiliate themselves with other nationalities or the Muskogee (Creek),” Melton said.

Along with the language, Melton also teaches other aspects of the Mvskoke culture.

“I teach them about where we come from, our clans, our kinship; who we are and where we’re at today,” Melton said.

Currently, Beggs and Glenpool High Schools are the only public schools that offer the Mvskoke language.

These schools have the only two certified teachers.

Those seeking certification must pass tests from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program and afterwards, obtain further certification through the state.

For more information on becoming certified contact MLPP at: 918-732-7724.

“They’re not actually going to come out fluent but it gives them knowledge and ability to greet or to be able to respectfully affiliate themselves with other nationalities or the Muskogee (Creek).”

— Beggs High School Mvskoke language instructor
Lanissa Jack-Melton

had.”

Muskogee (Creek) citizen and fluent Mvskoke speaker Lanissa Jack-Melton teaches the class.

“Muskogee (Creek) was my first language,” Melton said. “I had to take speech classes to learn how to speak English.”

Students do not have to be Muskogee (Creek) citizens to enroll in the class.

“They’re not actually going

presentation, Dahl spoke about different types of books, writing and inspiration.

“What happens with people when they want to create something, all of those experiences and ideas and memories and stuff that happens to them, it bumps around and collides and merge and turn into other things,” Dahl said. “That’s what helps us come up with ideas.”

He once received a letter from the mother of a 10-year-old boy, who previously disliked reading.

“He found some of my books

in the library and got excited about them. And he started taking them out and sharing them with his brother,” Dahl said. “If you can get a kid excited about reading, you can change his life.”

Narcomey-Watson said she plans to have more speakers in the future.

For more information about Michael Dahl visit: www.michaeldalhwrites.com.

For more information about the MCN Literacy Program email Narcomey-Watson at: rnarcomey-watson@myon.com.

Wilson Community dedicates new building

Members hope for more services, collaboration with MCN

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WILSON, Okla. — The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Wilson Indian Community held a grand opening and dedication of their new community center, Oct. 20 at 88678 Chestnut Road in Henryetta.

“I am very proud of this community here at Wilson,” MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. “It has been a long journey for them in so many ways.”

WIC Chairperson Rita Williams said she is proud of what has been accomplished by the community and MCN.

“This dream started years and

years ago,” WIC Chairperson Rita Williams said. “We wanted a building where our Native people, our Creek people could gather.”

The new building will be used for community meetings and events, a social gathering place for youth along with satellite accessibility.

“We want to be able to collaborate with all the services from our tribe,” Williams said.

After the dedication, the congregation were taken to view the new building and were served lunch. Several departments and programs from the MCN were on-hand to give out information on their services.

For more information on the new building and WIC, contact Rita Williams at: 918-759-1891.

CULTURAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Mvskoke hymn to start the event.

A demonstration stompdance was performed and the children were asked to join in.

“We have our ceremonial program that comes and does the stompdance for us; let the children know what the purpose of it is,” Frank said.

Traditional foods were cooked over an open fire and samples were given to the children.

“We have some of the foods that our elders have passed onto us as we use in our families growing up,” Frank said.

Ballstick making, belt weaving and pottery were some of the art demonstrations available to take part in.

Kristi Collington, Glenpool Public Schools Indian Educa-

tion Director brought over 130 of her students to Cultural Day.

“We brought our Muskogee (Creek) language class, our Native American culture classes, our Native American Student Association from middle school and high school and our fifth grade Indian Ed students,” Collington said.

Collington spoke about the impact.

“I think it’s not only important for our Creek students but also their peers to experience this so they can understand and appreciate the culture,” Collington said. “We’re just grateful Creek Nation has something like this to bring our students to.”

For more information call the Office of Child care at: 918-732-7680.

MYON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the kind of habits and things that you want a little child to learn how to do like brushing their teeth and the proper things to eat,” Narcomey-Watson said.

This was the first time Dahl was invited to speak to a tribe.

Dahl read a few books to the Head Start children and presented photos and information about Minnesota where he lives.

During the middle school

HOF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tiger said.

Artist Jerome Tiger was recognized posthumously.

Jerome Tiger’s work is known nationally, although he never received formal artistic training. His art often depicted elements of traditional Muscogee (Creek) life.

Jerome Tiger’s art can be



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) artist Dana Tiger accepted an induction into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame on behalf of her father the late Jerome Tiger.

viewed in Oklahoma at the Philbrook, Gilcrease and Five Civilized Tribes Museums or in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian and the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters.

Jerome Tiger’s daughter, Dana Tiger accepted the award on his behalf.

“I was just five-years-old when he passed away and he was a very young man,” Dana Tiger said. “I

Dacon’s artwork has been displayed nationally and internationally.

“Thank you everyone that is here tonight. I really appreciate you coming,” Dacon said. “I don’t know if I am deserving of it, but I sure am going to take it.”

The last inductee of the evening



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) artist Chebon Dacon was inducted into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

would like you to know that even as great as his artwork was, his heart full of love for his family and his people was even greater than his talent for painting and sculpting.”

Dana Tiger said she is thankful that her children are following in her father’s footsteps to keep his legacy going.

Artist Chebon Dacon was also inducted.

Dacon was a promising athlete who played football for the University of Oklahoma until an injury stopped the advancement of his football career.

After leaving OU, Dacon participated in rodeos and powwows across the U.S.

“The door on my football career was closed, but I was blessed with the ability to draw. I found a different purpose in life,” Dacon said in a previous interview.



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Advocate for domestic and sexual violence survivors Sarah Deer was inducted into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

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November 6

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November 13

gin blossoms

Friday 7PM

November 20

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MUSCOGEE VETERANS PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH

TUESDAY 10 NOV 2015

To commemorate the election of the Principal Chief and Second Chief, Muscogee veterans of all armed forces branches will exercise the long standing military tradition of Pass-In-Review to be recognized by our elected leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch. The Pass-In-Review will be held in front of the east entrance of the National Council mound building.

• 1000 VETERANS ASSEMBLE AT VASO BUILDING

• 1030 DIVISION FORMATION REHEARSAL

• 1200 PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH

• 1230 CHOW (AT ONEFIRE CASINO)

MUSCOGEE VETERANS PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MONDAY 9 NOV 2015

BY CONTACTING:

Ken Davis (918) 732-7739 • Shawn Taryole (918) 732-7745 • Chelsie Dickerson (918) 732-7616 to log in your attendance. Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest.

(In case of rain, the event will take place at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex)

MUSCOGEE VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

HOSTED BY ONEFIRE CASINO

10 NOV 2015

• Free chow provided by OneFire Casino

• 1330-1600 - a \$1,000 cash drawing every 30 minutes until 1600

• This drawing is open only to Muscogee veterans

• Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest

• If you do not have a Muscogee Veterans vest, please provide proof of military service and Muscogee citizenship

• Muscogee veterans are encouraged to bring family members for chow

• Only Muscogee veterans may participate in cash drawing

SPONSORED BY ONEFIRE CASINO

Rock Creek Bar - Table Games - Electronic Games



Diamond Club members who earn 3,500 points from November 1st – November 26th will receive a Thanksgiving Table Setting. Quantities are limited. Limit one (1) set per Diamond Club member.

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www.creeknationcasino.net





Chelsie Rich/MNN
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program hosted the In Her Shoes event Oct. 13, to help Muscogee (Creek) citizens, professionals and the community understand the decisions each domestic violence victim is faced with.

Walking in Lucy’s shoes

A tale of love turns violent

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At the In Her Shoes event hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Oct. 13, I slipped on the shoes of domestic violence victim Lucy and walked with her through her abusive relationship. I was tasked with helping Lucy make decisions that would change her life forever. At the age of 16, Lucy emigrated from Vietnam to the U.S. She met the man of her dreams while working in a flower shop. Steve was kind and caring, carefully choosing flowers to give to his mother. He asked Lucy out on a date, and even offered to help her close the flower shop that evening so she could go to dinner. He was romantic, a true American dream. Marriage and children soon followed. One typical day when the kitchen pipes were leaking,

Lucy called in a plumber to fix the problem, which made Steve jealous. The jealousy turned physical and Lucy found herself beaten and bruised sitting at the bottom of the stairs. The plumber and witness to the incident shared domestic violence advocacy program information with Lucy, told her about a women’s shelter that would allow her children to stay with her and even offered to let her live in his basement while she figured things out. Lucy thanked him but turned down the offer. She sought guidance from her pastor. The pastor told her that the abuse was a sin and that she should find help through the advocacy program. While planning out what to do, Lucy went to live with her sister for a short period of time. It was great having someone to talk to and help with the children but they were cramped in the small apartment and Lucy felt like a burden. She decided the best thing she could do was forgive Steve for

his abusive ways. That would be best for her children. He welcomed her back with open arms and said that things would change. That evening, Steve became violent again and began beating their son. Lucy knew she had to do something, so she grabbed the cast iron skillet from the kitchen and swung it towards her son’s abuser. Lucy was not strong enough. Steve grabbed the skillet and hit Lucy in the back. Luckily, the abuse stopped shortly after. She called the police and they came to the house to take a report. Child Protective Services took the children from the home because of the abuse. The next day, Lucy called an advocate to get some help. The advocate gave her what seemed to be hundreds of options and no advice for what she should do. Lucy felt lost. She called CPS and learned the only way to get her children back was to go through the court process. With no job or formal education, she was not sure where to turn for help. She felt as if the only thing she could do was forgive Steve and go back home. Steve was so excited to see Lucy. He told her that he would be happy to take her to a computer class that she had signed up for. Again, that night Steve became violent and Lucy had nowhere to go. She waited until the morning when Steve went to work to call the police. But when the police arrived, they told Lucy that they could not help her because the abuse had happened more than four hours prior. She called the advocacy program again and spoke with a

lady that was very helpful. Lucy knew that the road ahead would be full of difficult choices. She went to a housing program and learned that she could get temporary housing for her and her children, but it would take some time to get the paperwork completed. With the shelters full for the evening, Lucy was forced to go back home. She did not want to tell Steve her plans, in fear of provoking his abusive ways. Steve was propelled to anger that evening by what seemed to be the smallest things. Lucy attended court the next day for her protective order hearing. She could not afford a lawyer to plead her case, but the judge let her advocate sit beside her and hold her hand. It was comforting. Lucy was surprised that the judge ruled in her favor. The judge said that she could have custody of her children and she was allowed to live in the house. Steve was to stay away from Lucy and the children. Things were starting to look up for Lucy. She went to an employment agency to find a job. Lucy was discouraged because she had not been able to complete her computer class, but the agency helped her apply for a job that she felt would fit her nicely. It was only a short amount of time before the flower shop called and asked Lucy to fill the manager position. Her story may be a combination of fiction and real scenarios but for 45 minutes, it was very real for me. For that short amount of time, I played a domestic violence victim, carrying baggage with me everywhere I went, worrying about my children and symbolizing each abusive instance with

a Band-Aid. I hoped Lucy’s situation would improve after I left her side that day. At the In Her Shoes event, I learned of other struggles she might endure. There might be divorce proceedings and counseling sessions for her and the children. I did not leave her at the end of this tragic process, but just the beginning of the road ahead. Through the In Her Shoes exercise, I tried to help Lucy make the best decisions that she could make. I could only hope that those decisions would help her in the end. Decisions that seemed simple about where to turn to for help, or where she would sleep for the night became life altering and did not always play out how I thought or hoped. In domestic violence situations, the community sometimes points the blame to the victim for returning to their abuser. As much as I did not want Lucy to return home, as abuse was inevitable, I realized that sometimes the choice she wanted to make was not always available. The process takes time, and plays out differently for each situation. Sometimes the outcome goes according to plan, and sometimes the outcome is not what is expected. It is difficult to be able to know what is going through each victim’s head and why they make the decisions they do, unless we slip on their shoes and see the situation through their eyes. Those who are victims of domestic and sexual violence should call FVPP at: 918-732-7869 or to reach an on-call advocate after hours call the MCN Lighthouse Tribal Police Department at: 918-732-7800.

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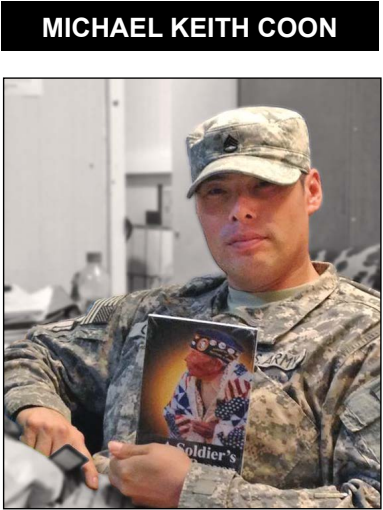
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PROJECT LAUNCH



MUSCOGEE NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISHED 1970





OKMULGEE, Okla. — Staff Sergeant Michael Keith Coon was born June 23, 1982 to Michael Dennis Coon and Louise Bolin in Tulsa. He departed on his final journey Sept. 23, 2015 in El Paso, Texas.

Keith graduated from Jenks High School and attended Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee before enlisting in the U.S. Army. Like his grandfather and father before him, Keith was an infantryman. Together, they comprised three generations serving our great country.

Keith proudly served in the Army for 10 years, doing his basic training at Fort Benning. Keith's grandfather Phillip Coon was a Bataan Death March Survivor of World War II and his dad Michael Coon was an army paratrooper in the 18th Airborne Corp.

During his military career, Keith was stationed at Fort Irwin, Fort Riley and Fort Bliss. He was deployed in 2009 to Baiji, Iraq as a Machine Gunner A Co, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. In 2012, he was deployed to Ghazzi, Afghanistan as Infantry Team Leader A Co, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. In 2015, he served in Djibouti, Africa as Squad Leader A Co, 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment.

A decorated soldier, Keith received four Army/Commendation Medals, seven Army/Achievement Medals, three Army/Good Conduct Medals, A National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Korea Defense Service Medal. He also received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal, Certificate of Achievement and Combat Infantry Badge.

Keith enjoyed sports. He loved playing baseball and football. He especially enjoyed watching his favorite football teams: the University of Oklahoma Sooners and Oakland Raiders. Keith participated in Tae Kwan Do at Kanga's and was a second-degree black belt. One of his favorite pastimes included playing video games for days with his brother Jeremy. Additionally, he loved grilling outside and spending time with family and friends.

A member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Nation, Keith is survived by his: wife Megan and sons, Dalton, Nokose, and Wahaya Coon and stepdaughter, Kaydence Sproul; father, Michael Coon; brother, Jeremy Coon and sister-in-law, Jennifer; nieces he considered sisters, Summer, Autumn, Raven and Sky Herrod; cousin he considered a brother, Robert Coffey; numerous aunts and uncles, numerous nieces and nephews and brothers in arms.

Michael Keith was preceded in death by: mother, Louise

Waw; grandparents, Joe and Jennie Bolin, grandparents Helen and Phillip Coon and sister, Teri Lynn Herrod.

Pallbearers were his active military brothers.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Oklahoma State Rep. Mark McCullough, Comanche Chairman Wallace Coffey, Kenneth Taryole, Sonny Taryole, James Floyd, Bill Hill, Ron McIntosh, John Bolin, Larry Bolin, Tiger McIntosh and Tony McGill.

Interment was at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

A trust fund for his boys has been set up at SpiritBank, 1315 E. Taft, Sapulpa, OK 74066. Their number is 918-227-5761 or 800-352-1171. Checks will need to be addressed to the Michael K Coon Memorial.

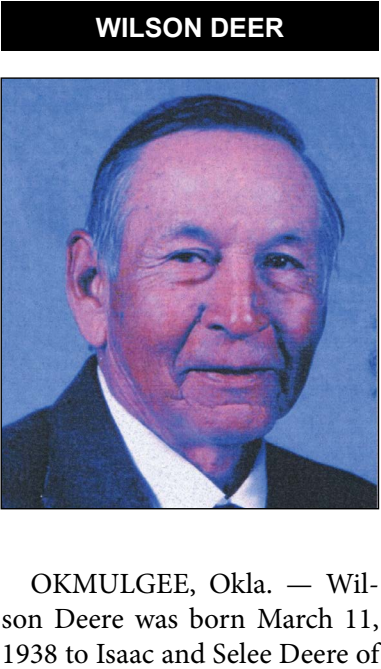
The family of Staff Sergeant Michael Keith Coon would like to thank Sergeant First Class (SFC) Berfreund and SFC Griffin, as well as Keith's brothers in arms, for helping us celebrate his life. We will cherish the memories of Keith that you shared with us. It was an honor to have you serve as pallbearers and help us lay Keith to rest. Thank you Fort Sill Burial Detail for the 21-gun salute, playing of taps, and the folding and presentation of the flags. Words cannot express how much our family appreciates everyone who was involved in honoring Keith.

Thank you to Little Cussetah Baptist Church and Rev. Ray Samuels for your words of comfort on Wednesday evening for our hurting hearts. Mvto to Rev. Steve Campbell and Rev. Jimmie Anderson for leading the service and reflecting on Keith's life. Mvto to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger for the reading of the obituary. Mvto to James Floyd for your thoughts and for sharing helpful contact information for loved ones in crisis situations. Thank you also to Native Praise for your beautiful songs that blessed our hearts.

Mvto MCN Honor Guard, Seminole Nation Honor Guard, Choctaw Nation Honor Guard and DAV Chapter 9 from Sapulpa for your final salutes. It was our honor to have all of you present. Thank you to First Baptist Church of Okmulgee for opening your doors to us and for the graciousness of your staff. The care extended in working with our schedule was most appreciated. Thanks to Belvin Baptist Church for opening your doors as well and for the nourishment you provided our bodies. It was delicious and you are always so sweet with your words.

Special thanks go out to Jennifer Taryole and the staff at MCN for printing our pamphlets for those in attendance. Thanks to Sherry Kast for helping us with writing all of the correct words.

Finally, we would like thank the Patriot Guard and MCN Lighthorse Police for escorting us to the various locations. We appreciate what you do for our country.



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Wilson Deer was born March 11, 1938 to Isaac and Selee Deere of

Okmulgee. He went to be with the Lord Oct. 3, 2015.

Wilson is survived by his wife, Louise of the home; daughter, Marcia Taylor and husband, Kyle of Muskogee; daughter, Tina Barnett and husband, Joe Jr. of Glenpool; grandchildren, Kyle S. Taylor and wife, Jana of Muskogee; Stephen, Christopher and John Taylor of Muskogee; Katie Barnett and Marcus of Tulsa; Corey Barnett and Crystal of Tulsa; great-grandchildren, Kyle Isaac Taylor; Cali, Caelyn and Colton Barnett; brother, Samuel Deere of Longview, Texas and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Isaac and Selee Deere; brothers, Eunice and Tom as well as sister, Lula Mae.

Pallbearers were: Tommy Deere, Robert Deere Jr., M. Tuffy Roberts, Terry Skipper Roberts, Rex Mosquito, Craig Mosquito, Marcus Barnett and Lance Gipson.

Honorary pallbearers were: Joe Barnett Jr., Raymond Lowe, Rusty Lowe, Robbie Roberts, Gary Pickett, Robert Deere Sr., Mac Rabbit, Troy Rabbit, Ronnie Proctor, Martin Proctor and Josh Pickett.

Family and friends may send online condolences at: www.smithfhs.com.

We would like to thank everyone for their support during this difficult time. —The Deere Family



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mark Ray Ellis, a resident of Okmul-

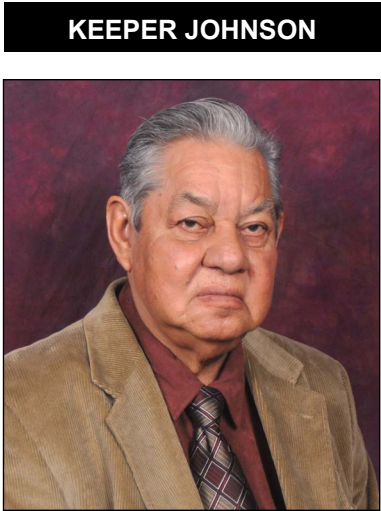
gee, passed away Oct. 14, 2015 at the age of 52. He was born July 6, 1963 to Kenneth John and Joan (Lacy) Ellis at the Claremore Indian Hospital. He was a graphic art designer and enjoyed carpentry, computers and astronomy.

He is preceded in death by his father, Kenneth John Ellis.

Survivors include his: mother, Joan Ellis of Rose; sisters, Kim Ellis of Glenpool and Jennifer Coon and husband, Jeremy of Sapulpa and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Services were held Oct. 20 at the Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service with Pastor Daniel Wind, Sr. officiating. Visitation was held from 5-8 p.m. at the Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service. Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service 719 E. 141st St., Glenpool.

Family and Friends may view the obituary and send condolences online at: www.schaudt-funeralservice.com.



MORRIS, Okla. — Keeper James Johnson Sr. age 76, resident of Morris died Oct. 16, 2015 in Tulsa.

He was born April 8, 1939 in Okmulgee to Harber and Betty (McHenry) Johnson. He graduated from Ft. Sill Indian School in Lawton in 1957. He attended Western Kentucky University earning a bachelor's degree in biology and Oklahoma State University receiving a master's degree in psychology. Keeper

enlisted in the U.S. Army Dec. 17, 1961 and served until Dec. 17, 1964 receiving an honorable discharge.

He retired from the State of Oklahoma in Okmulgee as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for 25 years from 1967-1992. He served as a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative of Okmulgee District Seat B for 14 years, 1999-2013.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Harber and Betty (McHenry) Johnson; son, Jeffrey Linn Johnson; brothers, Cy Johnson and Richard (Bo) Johnson and sisters, Loretta (Dee) Sloan, Betty (Base) Neal, Patsy Wahnee and Carolyn (Babe) Niedo.

Survivors include his: wife of the home, Martha Johnson; sons, Keeper (Kip) Johnson Jr. and wife, Kim of Morris and Rojer (Bear) Washee Johnson of Morris; honorary daughter, Shari (Missy) Blackeagle of Lawton; brother, Hugh Ed Johnson of Norman; sisters, Dorothy Ticeahkie of Lawton, Charlene Nevaquaya of Lawton and Darlene Robertson of Oakland, Calif., as well as nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Visitation was Oct. 20 at McClendon Winters Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Wake Services were Oct. 20 at the Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Paul Maxey and Rev. Eli McHenry officiating and continued at the home of Keeper and Martha Johnson in Morris.

Funeral services were Oct. 21 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Paul Maxey and Rev. Bill Barnett officiating. Burial was in the Morris Cemetery. Pallbearers were: Rojer Johnson, Dallas Johnson, Brandy Wahnee, Tyler Wahnee, Brooks Booker and Kepv Emvrvle Johnson.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Jimmy Johnson, George Johnson, Tommy Wahnee, Steven (Bosco) Wahnee, Phil Booker and Jim Kerr.

Condolences can be made at www.Mcclendon-Winters.com.

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Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of
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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Fire danger is increasing in Oklahoma

BIA/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Fire danger is on the rise again across the state of Oklahoma. Dry weather, unusually hot temperatures and strong north winds have combined to make Oklahoma’s forests and grasslands easily combustible. In addition, large fuel sources, such as big branches, logs, and downed trees from previous tornadoes and ice storms, are very dry inside and will burn with great intensity.

Keep in mind that dry vegetation – both living and dead – will burn readily under these conditions. Think before you act! Consider that the following objects and activities can start a wildfire, destroying homes, threatening lives and damaging our natural resources.

Cutting hay; hay bailers; pump jacks; welding, cutting or grinding; unattended debris burns; unattended campfires and charcoal grills; sparks from chainsaws; hot vehicle exhaust systems; tossed cigarettes and hot coals from wood burning stoves.

Caution: Notice to the public

If a wildfire occurs on your property, please stay clear of the burning area until it is safe to enter. Fire crews routinely conduct chainsaw operations, burnouts and back burns to gain control of the fire.

Sudden changes in wind direction along with wind gusts occur creating extreme fire behavior also making hazard trees extremely dangerous to persons below. Heavy smoke on roadways limit visibility, creating driving hazards for firefighters and the public. Entering a wildfire area places you and firefighters at risk to serious injury and possibly death. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact the IC (incident commander) or PIO (public information officer) of that incident.

If you see a wildfire on or near Indian lands please contact your local fire department at 911 and a number below for immediate assistance.

Bureau of Indian Affairs fire management can be reached at: 918-752-7397 or 918-752-7340.

Also effective immediately! The Bureau of Indian Affairs has implemented a burn permit system in effect for all of Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction. A BIA Burn Permit is needed on lands held in trust or restricted status by the United States of America and under the jurisdiction of the Okmulgee Agency.

The burn permit application can be picked up at all MCN Indian community centers, the Alabama, Kialegee and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns and the Okmulgee agency fire building located at 1006 Eufaula St., Okmulgee.

- Mvto

Charlie Harley, Range Technician Wildfire Prevention , Bureau of Indian Affairs Okmulgee Agency: 918-752-0657

Moving to Indian Territory, a lifetime of research

Muscogee (Creek) citizen release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) tribal history and culture was revealed after a lifetime of research into her McIntosh ancestors by author Billie Jane McIntosh.

Her second book about the life of Chilly McIntosh who moved from Georgia to Indian Territory in 1827 was published by American History Press in 2008.

The Muscogee (Creek) author has a limited number of copies she will sign and mail to other citizens.

‘From Georgia Tragedy To Oklahoma Frontier, A Biography of Scots Creek’

‘Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh’ details Muscogee (Creek) tribal history, culture, religion and ceremonies.

It lists U.S. government treaties with the tribe and shows many maps, including those of the various land sessions exchanged.

The book describes the two divisions of the Muscogee (Creek) tribe: the Upper Creeks of Alabama and the Lower Creeks of Georgia.

It tells how they met in unity at times and how they separated at others, including over the U.S. government urging them to move west of the Mississippi River.

It tells of the night the Upper Creeks killed the Lower Creek Chief William McIntosh because he favored leaving Georgia/Alabama, rather than staying in territory becoming crowded with European invaders.

Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, a Muscogee (Creek) living in California, praised the book as, “the best overview and description of the murder of Chief William McIntosh, Jr.” that he has ever seen.

The ‘Slave Narratives’ chapter describes slave’s lives with their Muscogee (Creek) families.

There is a Chilly McIntosh family album, the total ‘Laws of the Creek Nation,’ a lengthy bibliography, an index of names, etc.

For more information, email: billiejanem@gmail.com.

For a signed book, send \$19 plus \$4 for postage to: Billie Jane McIntosh, 3300 N. Captain Colton Lane Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

CAREER EXPO SET FOR NOV. 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has set the third annual Education and Career Expo for 8 a.m., Nov. 5 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

For more information call MCN ET at: 918-732-7600.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR NOV. 7

WEWOKA, Okla. — Kaney Chapel Indian United Methodist Church, 35947 Hwy 59 E., is hosting an annual gospel singing 6 p.m., Nov. 7 as a tribute to those in the military.

For more information call: 405-618-0599.

INTER-TRIBAL PRAYER DAY SET FOR NOV. 7

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The second annual Inter-Tribal Prayer Day is set for Nov. 7 at the Sequoyah High School cafeteria in Tahlequah from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information call Betty Pulver at: 918-282-9381.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DEADLINE SET NOV. 22

ANADARKO, Okla. — Rock Springs Indian Baptist Church is asking for donations of: clothes, toys and school and personal items to take to To’hajiilee Indian Baptist Church on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

The deadline to submit is Nov. 22.

For more information call J. C. Smith at: 405-243-6159 or Terry Fish at: 918-313-0407.

OCMA ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW SET NOV. 14

OKLAHOMA CITY — The second annual Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association Native American Arts and Crafts Show is set for Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The vendor fee is \$20 and you must bring your own table. For more information, call: 405-605-2621.

DeLaune’s Corner: Out of your element



MNN File Photo

Dancing beyond my comfort zone

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Have you ever wanted to try something out that you have never done before and thought you would never do?

And when the time came around to do it, at the last second, you talked yourself out of it. You tell yourself that you can do it next week, next month or next year.

Next thing you know, you never get around to it. You always think about it but never have the courage to follow through. I had this same issue and decided to make a change.

I still remember the day I, ‘stepped out of my element.’ It was Jan. 3 and I was in the parking lot looking in at all the people inside and wondering, ‘should I do this?’

Eventually I walked in, saw a couch and sat down. The instructors introduced themselves and a few minutes later, started teaching me something new that I learned to love.

My ‘element’ is a dance that I would learn called bachata, which originated in the Dominican Republic and is performed all over the world. It is probably best to watch it through an online search to see what I mean.

After the first class, my curiosity grew. I kept returning to

Zumba returns to MCN communities

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation PRIDE Program is again offering Zumba classes taught by Julie Bryant for Muscogee (Creek) citizens at the community centers.

We have expanded our service area and have new times that are available.

The more attendance that we have for these classes, the better chance that we have to continue bringing them to you.

They are taught so that all participants can take the class regardless of fitness level. You may even sit in a chair to do the exercise.

This is part of the MCN Dia-

betes Prevention Program and is designed to encourage everyone to exercise more.

The schedule is as follows:

Nov. 5 - Sapulpa 11 a.m., Bristow 1 p.m.

Nov. 12 - Muskogee 11 a.m., Koweta 1 p.m.

Nov. 19 - Eufaula 11 a.m., Okemah 1 p.m. (tentative)

Dec. 3 - Okmulgee 11 a.m., Dewar 1 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Eufaula 11 a.m., Muskogee 1 p.m. (tentative)

Several communities have expressed interest and we want to come to your community but need a lot of people to show up for those we have scheduled.

For more information call Bryant at: 918-895-3492.

NATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET SET DEC. 12

SAPULPA, Okla. — The fifth annual Native American Christmas Market is set for 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Dec. 12 at the Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar Ave., Sapulpa, OK 74066.

The featured artist will be Tim Nevaquaya and concessions will be handled by Autumn Star Catering. For more information, call Tricia Alexander at: 918-998-4549.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR DEC. 15

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election for the secretary and treasurer board positions for Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and \$20 for background checks is Nov. 19 by 5 p.m.

For questions or more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

see what I could learn. I talked to my instructors, whose names are Philip and Carla. In a short amount of time, I began to consider them some of my closest friends, almost family. They introduced me to a world that I would have never thought of participating in.

My curiosity kept growing. I am pretty sure that my instructors were getting sick of all the questions I asked but they bit their lip and answered.

Eventually, they told me about a dance team that they are a part of and wanted to see if I was interested. It took me about a week to decide but I went ahead and signed the necessary contract and thought, ‘wow, a dance team?’

I had to play catch up because the team was already practicing the new routine so I had numerous sessions at the dance studio and my house. So many hours and so much effort was devoted to this dance.

It helped that I had a lot of support from my daughter who is on a dance team herself, so she understood the practice I had to put in.

While I practiced bachata, she practiced her hip-hop. It was great that we shared this experience, talking about our dances and what we learned that week. She gave me advice on what I needed to do. I never gave her advice. She is the better dancer.

All of the practices, hearing the music over and over, counting from one to eight infinite amounts of times was worth it. On June 20, my dance team, Tulsa Touch debuted our dance for the community. That was the reward, showing the dance to everyone.

It made me appreciate taking that step forward, opening the door and taking a seat on the couch to learn something new. I still think about that day over and over. What if I did not go? What if I waited until the next

week? I do not think the results would have been the same.

What would my column be without quotes? Of course, I have two of them.

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You’re doing things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you’re doing something.” – English author, Neil Gaiman

The next quote my instructor told me was:

“Tell me and I forget; teach me and I may remember; involve me and I learn.” – Benjamin Franklin

To my instructors, all the extra sessions you have given me to help learn this new dance, words cannot properly express the appreciation that I have for you. To my new dance family, Tulsa Touch and Island Touch, although I cannot name everyone in this column, please know that your time, patience and advice were a big help.

So in closing, if there is something that you get from this column, I hope you step out of the element you are in now. If you want to try something new, do it. Make the mistakes, I still do. Over and over I make mistakes but I learn and keep going. That is what makes it fun.

I am still learning bachata because it is a never-ending process. I tried salsa dancing and at first, I did not like it but I have developed an interest again.

If you are ever in this area and you want to try bachata or salsa, please let me know. I know of a great place and environment to learn.

If you are nervous, so am I, and lastly, if you are afraid to go alone, chances are I will be there learning. So no excuses, come join me.